

# JOHN LOGAN BRENT

HENRY COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE  
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Honorable Members of the Bourbon Barrel Tax Taskforce Committee:

Good Morning. My name is John Logan Brent and I serve as Judge/Executive in Henry County, KY. For decades burley tobacco served as the economic engine for our county, today, however that is no longer the case. We have a small industrial base with five industries, each providing employment of under 100 persons respectively. Most are in sectors which have been hurt by the global economy. We have become predominantly a bedroom community since the southern end of our county sits just 25 miles from Louisville. The result of this is an increasing strain on our local resources and services.

Until 2018 there had been very little optimistic economic news for our county in 20 years. In that same year Peerless Distillery finished an aging warehouse, and both Rabbit Hole and Angel's Envy announced major projects in our county.

Rabbit Hole's project consisting of a distillery, visitor's center, and storage warehouses passed planning and zoning but met opposition from a neighborhood group who ultimately filed suit against the county. In an effort to keep Rabbit Hole in the county, Fiscal Court sold them 40 acres in the county industrial park for the cost of the initial land purchase. Not included in this price were the hundreds of thousands in federal, state, and fiscal court dollars that funded the infrastructure for the park. Fiscal Court's soul reasoning for doing this was the payback via the barrel tax. Currently Rabbit Hole has 4 warehouses completed. Only two people are employed to man these warehouses.

Also in 2018, Angel's Envy came to the county with plans to build warehouses and a distillery. Their P & Z slide presentation denoted an estimate of \$855,000 in barrel taxes to be received by Henry County. Just last Tuesday, Angel's Envy came before Fiscal Court for the rezoning of an additional 1000 acres which included an additional proposed 25 barrel warehouses. When full those houses would hold 1,450,000 barrels. The retail value of those barrels would be over \$17 billion dollars. The barrel tax on that \$17 billion plus would only amount to \$7,424,000 annually.

A fifth starts at around \$50 for all three brands who have warehousing in Henry County. Our tangible tax equates to 2.1 cents per year or 6.3 cents total on a five-year bottle of bourbon. This tax is the future of our schools, our EMS, and county government. All of our distilleries came here announcing the tax as a reason we should welcome them and we did. By the year 2035 our three bourbon companies anticipate having over \$20 billion in inventory in Henry County, I don't think that \$10 million in barrel taxes will be missed. On behalf of our county I encourage to please leave the barrel tax in place.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John L. Brent". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John L Brent  
Henry County Judge/Executive

Estimated  
Tax Revenues

Phase 1	
• Barrel Tax:	estimated \$520,000
• Property Tax:	<u>estimated \$165,000</u>
Total	\$685,000

Phase 2	
• Barrel Tax:	estimated \$335,000
• Property Tax: Warehouses	estimated \$90,000
• Property Tax: Distillery	<u>estimated \$600,000</u>
Total	\$1,025,000

COMBINED TOTAL: \$1,710,000.00